



**Notes for internal group discussion only. Do not distribute**  
**NWCG Smoke Committee February 2016 Activity Update**



### **Membership Issues**

- Vacancy Issues: Vice SmoC Chair
- Training Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Smoke Managers Subcommittee Chair

### **Outreach and Messaging**

- Diana has completed activity updates through September and is currently finishing up October.
- The online course has been vetted, but is not finalized yet.
- Web Site activity – Ozone page is active, Briefing update still needed; Map of PM2.5 Non-Attainment Areas and Federal Lands requested. Posting of Webinars and links. Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program and Air Resource Advisor background information has been posted.
- Frames.gov webinar page is now available.
- EER placeholder page is active w/EPA info. SmoC can populate it with more information.

### **Special Topics Calls/Webinars**

- If anyone has any ideas for these, let the group know.

### **NWCG Business**

- NWCG All Chairs meeting – Pete covered challenges: Rx smoke management issues, AQ effects on wildfire, challenges posed by vacancies in SmoC, communication challenges, securing funding for NWCG projects for smoke, SmoC comments not included in Redbook, will continue working on continuity of RX 410 training, getting smoldering potential into operational use – supported by other committees but doesn't proceed, transportation safety and smoke. Pete also reviewed SmoC successes: biweekly calls, many webinars, progress on major projects: SM and AQ for land managers, new Smoke Management Guide, and the Smoke Exposure Guide.
- Glaser Group Workshop (theglaser.com) – a technique used to speed up group meetings using PRES example: Point, Reason, Example, Summary in 45 seconds for each.
- *Product revision schedule: This was not discussed on February 11 (call)*
  1. *Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide (Red Book) (PMS 210), January 2014.*
  2. *Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS 461), January 2014.*
  3. *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, January 2015.*
- RX-410 and the 310-1 inclusion request – need to know how smoke is addressed in the current NWCG training framework.
  - 341 and 301 are slated for revision, the position task book (PTB) is being revised. Now is the time for comments to strengthen info on smoke for the PTB. Next step – look at the content.
  - Students provided favorable feedback on M580 get the basic smoke information online, then can spend more time on complex issues during the in-person course.
- Review of the draft Prescribed Fire Smoke Management Guide – 60 day review period (includes SmoC comment).
- Budget Submittal Guidance released – NEW SmoC submittals. Looking at 5 years out in the new budget process.
  - SmoC has an idea for Med Unit Leader video and smoke exposure material. Mark to meet with Chad Fisher on these topics.
  - Need to include International Smoke Symposium funds in budgets if we plan on doing these every 3 years. Same for the Online Smoke course.
  - We need to discuss Estimated Smoldering Potential research needs.
- Exceptional Event Rule – NPRM Released-BP Posting, Other Info Sharing.
  - A lot of comments from coalitions and Rx fire councils on the proposed EER rule revision.
  - Pete will post the EER briefing paper in the next couple days.
  - Slated to release new final EER in Aug/Sept. 2016.



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- Jeremy Baily has stepped into Morgan Varner's old role as chair at Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils.

### **Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation**

- IAWF International Smoke Symposium 2 (November 14-19, 2016, Long Beach, CA) - Status Report – Call for Presentations – Help get the word out!!
- American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, December 14-18, 2015.
- [IAWF Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference](#) (April 11-15, 2016)---Special Tracks/Workshops – Some reduction in smoke content, DEASCO3 workshop will no longer be held. Don Moore will be unable to attend – one of the Smoke JFSP Tracks to be moved from IAWF Conference to the Int'l Smoke Symposium. Still have 15+ JFSP funded project presentations at the Portland Conference.
  - Ursula Parker/FWS Secretary will be attending the Australia counterpart to this event. There are less smoke-related topics, but smoke modeling is included.
- [Ecologic and Public Health Tradeoffs Between Prescribed and Wildfire-Public Forum, Vancouver, BC, Canada April 18, 2016](#) (click on blue “view details” box for info on this event).
  - Canadian Smoke Forum - Emergency Management and Health Responses, Kelowna, Canada, October 28, 2016. Open forum/one day session.
- Annual EPA Region 10 Smoke Management Meeting March 14-16 in Spokane WA.
  - Mark Fitch, Janice Peterson, and others are assembling the agenda for this, and emissions will be a key topic. This will be followed directly by a meeting of the WA Rx Fire Council.
- [Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop](#) March 4-5 Seattle WA. Will have a fire and smoke focus this year, Susan O'Neill is putting together abstracts for this.
- [4<sup>th</sup> Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium](#) will meet in central Oregon.
- National Association for Clean Air Agencies in Mid-March will hold a workshop on public outreach and air quality in Chicago IL. Pete and Susan Stone plan to attend.
- Susan Stone will be participating in a workshop on indoor air quality and will bring up addressing indoor air quality and smoke.

### **Subcommittee Report-outs:**

#### Smoke Technical Topics

- Smoke Management Guide Status – wrapped up and rolled out next week.
- Emission inventories and emission streams will be a critical element at the March EPA meeting in Spokane. Janice Peterson will give a presentation.
- Emissions factor special session planned for the April IAWF meeting in Portland.

#### Smoke Training

- Plan to discuss online, exposure guide, transport guide on the next call.
- Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Mark Fitch has editorial comments to include. On track to complete by extended June 2016 deadline.
- Personnel Exposure Guidebook – Nothing to report.

#### Smoke Managers

- Still looking for a leader. Nothing new to report.

### **Round Robin Topics**

- Mike Broughton – Claudia appreciated the jacket SmoC gifted her upon retirement.
- Mike Zupko – Meeting with Governors' staffs in DC to discuss WFLC issues. There was a strong interest in the smoke issue and would like to discuss further at meeting this fall.
- Mark Fitch – represented SmoC at the FENCE committee that oversees fire weather and fire behavior. Discussed gaining efficiencies in training courses. Mixing height changes were discussed and NWS indicated they were going to zero in on changes in the coming year using the



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Stahl method. Robin Heffernan from NWS presented a new spot weather forecast format that is planned to go live to the fire community in June 2016. HYSPLIT will still be included, but no changes will be made to make it more customized. NWS also looking into changes in the red flag watches/warnings messaging over the next few years to make these more understandable to the public.

- Mark Fitch – NWCG projects: proposals due in April. Mark usually takes SmoC ideas and puts proposal requests into the correct format and sends them to Elaine at NWCG. Last year, none of the projects were funded, but support for the International Smoke Symposium is still being considered. Mark explained certain projects are held over for future funding for up to 4-5 years.
- NACAA Agriculture Committee presentation request for SmoC, Pete is scheduling this.
- GACCS is having semi-annual meeting on March 8, and SmoC will have some dialogue there regarding working with ARAs and air quality response as a whole.
- BlueSky Playground. 4km meteorology capability has been added to BlueSky Playground, Susan is working on implementing this with particle mode. BlueSky is one of the priorities that has been placed in IFTDSS this year.